Survey of oil and gas in Rajasthan

†68. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas and oil reserves have been explored in different districts of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the details of the areas where survey work has been completed indicating the quality of gas and oil reserves explored therein;

(c) whether the Central Government has finalized any scheme for installation of an oil refinery in some areas of Rajasthan;

(d) if so, the area where an oil refinery may be installed with the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In Rajasthan, presently 13 oil/gas exploration blocks are under operation in PSC regime falling in the districts of Barmer, Jalore, Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Ganga Nagar, Churu, Kota, Jhalawar, Jodhpur, Hanuman Garh, Bundi, Chittor Garh, Bhilwara and Baran. In addition, ONGC and OIL are also licensees in pre-NELP blocks in the districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer, Bikaner and Ganga Nagar in Rajasthan.

In the PSC regime, in two Pre NELP blocks, namely RJ-ON-90/1 and RJ-ON/6, a total of 78.99 MMT ultimate recoverable oil and gas reserves have been aggregated. In nomination blocks, Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) and Oil India Limited (OIL) have established 1.76 BCM and 5.51 BCM of gas reserves respectively.

(c) to (e) No, Sir. Consequent on de-licensing of refinery sector in 1998, a refinery may be set up anywhere in India by a Private or Public Sector Enterprises. Therefore it is a Public or a Private Sector Enterprise to decide on setting up a refinery based on techno-economic feasibility.

The proposal for setting up a refinery at Barmer in Rajasthan is under the consideration of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC)/Mangalore Refinery and Petro-chemicals Limited (MRPL), a subsidiary of ONGC.

ONGC/MRPL has reported that economic viability of this high investment requires fiscal incentives and other benefits from the Government of Rajasthan. ONGC/MRPL have requested the State Government to consider the required fiscal incentives and support for the viability of huge investments in the Well- head Refinery Project. Currently, ONGC and Government of Rajasthan are in a process of discussion regarding fiscal incentives to be extended by Government of Rajasthan to make the refinery investment viable.

Allotment of petrol pumps and LPG dealership

†69. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether preference is given only to such persons, pension holders, freedom fighters/ dependants as recognized by the Central Government in the allotment of dealerships of petrol pumps and LPG and that persons, pension holders, freedom fighters/dependants

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

recognized by the State Governments are not given preference in the matter;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such a discrimination in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intends to take measures to remove this type of discrimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) As per the extant guidelines, there is 2% reservation under 'Freedom Fighter' category for allotment of Retail Outlet dealerships/LPG distributorships/SKO-LDO dealerships. Persons applying for dealerships/distributorships under this category should produce a certificate or Tamrapatra or an attested copy of the pension order issued by the Accountant General in pursuance of the sanction letter from Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India of their having been Freedom Fighter

Crisis of LPG in Assam

70. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the action proposed by Government to arrest the crisis of LPG in Assam; and

(b) whether there is any new proposal to increase the LPG distribution Centre in the said State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that at present, there is no overall shortage of LPG in the country, including the State of Assam and LPG supplies to distributors are being made by the OMCs through indigenous production and imports in accordance with the genuine demand of customers registered with the LPG distributors. OMCs have further reported that they have supplied 143.36 TMT (Thousand metric tonnes) of domestic LPG in the State of Assam during the period—April, 2007-January, 2008 as against 135.02 TMT during the corresponding period of last year. OMCs have not reported any backlog at present in supply of domestic LPG in the State of Assam.

(b) Government have given freedom to Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) to set up LPG distributorships in accordance with their commercial assessment and locations are identified by them on the basis of available refill sale potential for sustaining independent distributorships. However, Government have advised OMCs to draw up Marketing Plans for covering semi-urban and rural areas. OMCs have finalized 33 locations in the State of Assam for setting up LPG distributorships. The setting up of LPG distributorships is a continuous process and involves identifying of a suitable location, arranging land for setting up of godown and other statutory clearances.

Supply of gas from KG basin to Maharashtra

71. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has sought the Ministry's intervention for allocation of gas from Reliance Industries KG-basin pipeline for a proposed 1,040 MW extension of Maha Genco's Uran Plant;